

**DOE TEC Rail Topic Group Conference Call
Thursday, May 17, 2007, 3:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m. EDT**

Conference Call Minutes

Participants:

Chair: Alex Thrower (RW)

Members: Jane Beetem (CSG/MW), Kevin Blackwell (DOT/FRA), Lisa Janairo (CSG/MW), Paul Johnson (ORNL), Marsha Keister (INL), Christina Nelson (NCSL), Doug Osborn (SNL), Sarah Wochos (CSG/MW), Scott Field (WIEB), Sue Loudner (Pueblo of Acoma), Scott Palmer (BLET), Cort Richardson and Melissa Bailey (CSG-NE), Mel Massaro (DOT/FRA), Bob Fronczak (AAR), Anne deLain Clark (WGA/NM),

Contractor Support: Laura Van Houten (Legin) and Michele Enders (SAIC)

Summary:

Alex Thrower called the conference to order and asked if there were any recommended additions to the agenda. Receiving none, he began with a discussion of the Task Plan.

Rail Topic Group Task Plan

The purpose of the Task Plan is to describe, define, and guide the efforts of the Rail Topic Group. Lisa Janairo had provided detailed comments in a redline/strikeout version of the document that Alex had attempted to address. He asked if there were any additional comments.

Cort Richardson asked if the Rail Topic Group list could be updated, as the latest version on the TEC website was from the latter part of 2006. Alex agreed to have the list updated in the next few days and have it posted on the TEC website prior to the next TEC meeting.

Alex Thrower next asked for status reports from each of the subgroups

Inspections

Sarah Wochos reported on the progress that she, Tim Runyon, and Carlisle Smith had made in developing an Association of Rail Safety Managers inspection form. She noted that an initial draft had been prepared and that a full version would be presented to the group in August. Participants recommended that they consider where actual inspections currently occur and how they are conducted before distributing the draft for review and comment. Kevin Blackwell recommended that they also consider the final TSA/DOT rulemaking with respect to routing.

Tracking

Sarah Wochos reported that the state survey was complete and that all of the subgroups' work products were complete. She noted that the subgroup planned to reconvene in the near future to discuss emerging technologies.

Radiation Monitoring

Cort Richardson indicated that the subgroup was poised to begin. He indicated that he needed to send out an e-mail to the members. He also said that Marty Vyeniello had agreed to serve as the lead. Kevin Blackwell suggested that he hoped the subgroup could provide information and/or recommendations that could be used to convince the agency of the need for radiation detection equipment.

Rail Shipment Planning

Lisa Janairo reported that since the rail shipment timelines had been distributed, there had been no new developments with this subgroup.

Intermodal Subgroup

Alex Thrower indicated that the subgroup had not yet convened. He observed that there would be an intermodal panel discussion at the upcoming TEC meeting and that the results of this discussion would affect the ultimate direction of the subgroup. He also noted that Melissa Bailey agreed to serve as lead. Participants asked if the scope of the subgroup would include barge as well as truck and rail transport. Alex indicated that it would, although the principal focus would be on rail.

Miscellaneous

Alex Thrower that a "Save the Date" notice regarding the upcoming TEC meeting had already been distributed. The TEC meeting agenda was nearly finalized and would be posted on the TEC website.

Sue Loudner commented that based on their on-going discussions, the Tribes had a number of issues and concerns (e.g., structural integrity of the rail lines) that they would like to present to the group prior to and during the TEC meeting. Alex Thrower welcomed the increase in Tribal participation on the topic groups and encouraged her to raise these concerns to the group.

The call was adjourned.